



Environmental Bulletin

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from the Savannah River Site

Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis (EE/CA) for the Removal of the C-Area Ash Pile off Powerline Road and C-area Ash Pile offered for Public Comment

The U. S. Department of Energy (DOE) is proposing to perform a non-time critical removal action at the C Area Ash Pile off Powerline Road and C Area Ash Pile 188-0C Site Evaluation Areas (SEAs). Under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) a Removal Site Evaluation Report (RSER) must be completed prior to performing non-time critical removal actions. CERCLA also requires an (EE/CA) to evaluate removal alternatives.

The C-Area Ash Pile off Powerline Road is relatively flat but does begin to slope toward the north just beyond the pile. This SEA encompasses approximately 1.5 acres, but part of the pile has been disturbed by the powerline road (as evidenced by the discolored dirt in the road adjacent to the pile). The undisturbed portion of the SEA is vegetated with grasses and young trees, neither of which shows any signs of stress. Powerhouse ash in C Area was disposed of in dry ash piles outside of the C-Area perimeter fence from 1954 to 1984. Prior to inception of the Site Evaluation Program, a powerline road was constructed through the western edge of this pile.

The C-Area Ash Pile SEA is a mounded area vegetated with grass and trees. The pile covers approximately 2.5 acres. No rubble or other materials were observed during several site visits. Erosion problems have been identified on the northeast corner.

The purpose of the EE/CA, as required by the National Contingency Plan (NCP) is to identify the objectives of the removal action and to develop various alternatives that might satisfy those objectives. This EE/CA evaluates three alternatives, recommends a removal action, and provides for public comment.

The preferred alternative is Alternative 3 - Removal of C-Area Ash Pile 188-0C and C-Area Ash Pile off Powerline Road. The removal of ash would mitigate the potential for future releases to the soil and surface water and ensure proper disposal of the ash.

DOE plans to release this document for a 30-day public comment period beginning September 12, 2003. The preferred alternative may be modified or changed based on public comments. Following the public comment period, a "Memorandum Documenting the Decision on the Selection of the alternative" will be prepared and transmitted to the public by DOE-SR.

This EE/CA, completed under CERCLA is available for public review from September 12, 2003 to October 11, 2003, at the following locations:

DOE Public Reading Room at the Gregg-Graniteville Library at the University of South Carolina (USC)-Aiken campus in Aiken, SC; Thomas Cooper Library Government Documents Department at USC in Columbia, SC; Reese Library at Augusta State University in Augusta, GA; and Asa H. Gordon Library at Savannah State University in Savannah, GA.

For additional information, contact Jim Moore at 1-800-249-8155 or e-mail: jim02.moore@srs.gov

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